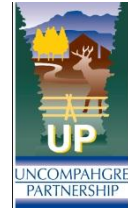




INVITATION TO COLORADO FOREST RESTORATION BREAKFAST BRIEFING

*Co-sponsored by
Congressman Mike Coffman and Congressman Jared Polis*



**Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2103
Washington D.C.**

7:30 – 8:45 am

Breakfast will be served.

RSVP: WTodd@BehConsulting.com

The Colorado Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Delegation, including the Front Range Roundtable (FRR) and the Uncompahgre Partnership (UP), cordially invites you to a briefing and discussion on Colorado's forest health, wildfire risk and mitigation. The briefing will focus on:

1. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program and its significance to Colorado communities and forests;
2. Lessons learned on fire risk mitigation and forest restoration from recent fires in Colorado, including the Fourmile Canyon Fire, which caused the greatest property loss from wildfire in the history of the state; and
3. Ideas for federal policies and legislation to further improve forest health and community protection.

MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO CFLR DELEGATION

The following representatives from the Front Range Roundtable and the Uncompahgre Partnership will attend this trip:

1. *Ms. Paige Lewis, Governmental Affairs, The Nature Conservancy*
2. *Ms. Carol Ekarius, Executive Director, Coalition for the Upper South Platte*
3. *Mr. Jeff Jahnke, State Forester, Colorado State Forest Service*
4. *Ms. Pam Motley, Uncompahgre Partnership*
5. *Commissioner Ben Pearlman, Boulder County Board of County Commissioners*

ABOUT THE COLORADO CFLR DELEGATION

The Front Range Roundtable (www.frontrangeroundtable.org)

The Front Range Roundtable was formed in 2004 and represents more than 60 different agencies and organizations working together to “reduce wildland fire risks and improve forest health through sustained fuels treatment along the Colorado Front Range.” The Roundtable's action plan covers ten counties and identifies 1.5 million acres of Front Range forest that are in need of treatment to improve ecological conditions and protect communities and infrastructure.

Forest health issues are of critical importance to Colorado's Front Range counties. These forests directly impact two million people, 881 communities, and more than 700,000 homes. The forests are vital municipal watersheds, supplying over 85% of Colorado's residents with drinking water. There are 1,775 miles of roads, 1,573 miles of transmission lines, 664 miles of natural gas lines, and 122 communication towers that are vulnerable to future wildfires within these forests. Two million acres are considered essential habitat for imperiled wildlife and plant species. Nearly one half the land is national forest system lands.

Implementation of the Front Range Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Project is a key Roundtable initiative. The project outlines a 10 year strategy for restoring nearly 32,000 acres of high priority forest land and would catalyze complementary treatment on at least 165,000 acres in the surrounding landscape. If fully funded, this project will bring \$37 million in essential new funding to Front Range forests.

Other Roundtable priorities include: community wildfire protection, innovative biomass utilization, stewardship contracting and use of science in implementation and monitoring.

Roundtable contact: Gali Beh, c/o Beh Management Consulting, Inc., 1107 12th St., Boulder CO 80302, 303-499-1576, gali@behconsulting.com

The Uncompahgre Partnership (www.upartnership.org)

The Uncompahgre Partnership (UP), a collaborative working group located in western Colorado, was developed to improve the ecosystem health and natural functions of the landscape, using best available science, community input and adaptive management. The UP partners include representatives from the Public Lands Partnership, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Western Area Power Administration, and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. Since its inception in 2001, the UP has worked to develop ecologically and economically sustainable projects that contribute to the health and biodiversity of our public lands by engaging participation from a broad spectrum of stakeholders including environmental groups, recreationists and community members, natural resource-based industries, academia, and federal and state land management agencies.

The UP's current effort, the 'Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Restoration Project,' is one of ten projects nation-wide to receive a grant through the USDA's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program in 2010. The ten-year grant program will fund an array of restorative treatments to enhance the resiliency and diversity of the native ecosystem on the Uncompahgre Plateau while supporting local rural economies.

The restoration project is expected to create close to 750 part-time or seasonal jobs, support the enlargement of biomass markets for renewable energy, and help to sustain the local timber mills by providing a sustainable supply of wood. The local mills are the last two remaining large sawmills in Colorado and are needed to service imperative forest health projects across the State of Colorado. Local youth will also be involved in projects, providing work, job skill training, and educational opportunities.

UP contact: Pam Motley, P.O. Box 2014, Montrose, CO 81402, 970-209-9087, info@UPartnership.org